

# Indiana Department of Education

## Division of College and Career Preparation

### *Questions & Answers Regarding Changes to Indiana Career & Technical Education Programs*

**1. *What changes will be made to Career and Technical Education in Indiana?***

Over the course of the next three years, Indiana's Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses will be reviewed, revised and aligned into state-approved Indiana Career Pathways (also called Programs of Study). Teams of CTE teachers, CTE directors, administrators, IDOE specialists, and postsecondary and business and industry representatives from each subject area will meet to determine the secondary and postsecondary courses that fit into each Pathway. We anticipate all new Career Pathways will be ready for implementation in the 2013-14 school year.

**2. *What is an Indiana Career Pathway?***

The definition of a state-approved Indiana Career Pathway is an aligned sequence of secondary and, in most cases, postsecondary courses that leads to an industry-recognized credential or technical certification, or an associates or baccalaureate degree at an accredited postsecondary institution, or a registered apprenticeship in:

- 1) An occupation labeled as High Wage and Moderate/High Demand in Indiana, or
- 2) An occupation within the eight emerging career areas identified in the Indiana Strategic Skills Initiative, or
- 3) An occupation approved by the Indiana Commission on Career & Technical Education.

**3. *Who determines what Career Pathways will be selected to be developed?***

The Indiana Department of Education has worked with the Indiana Association of Career & Technical Education Districts, Indiana CTE District Directors and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to determine the Indiana Career Pathways that will be developed.

**4. *How will CTE funding change?***

Career Pathways Work Groups comprised of CTE teachers, CTE directors, administrators, IDOE specialists, and postsecondary and business and industry representatives over the next three years will determine the courses to be included in each Pathway and a finance team of representatives of superintendents, CTE teachers, and CTE directors will be formed in Spring 2010 to ensure that current funding levels are maintained as districts implement the new Career Pathways. Over time, new CTE courses may be added to the funding crosswalk while other courses may be revised or removed from the funding crosswalk. Maintaining current total levels of state CTE funding is a central goal.

**5. Will the funding crosswalk change? If so, how will that happen?**

Possibly. The Career Pathways Work Groups along with the finance committee will examine all options for maintaining our current funding levels and will make recommendations to the Indiana State Board of Education as appropriate. View a copy of the CTE funding crosswalk at [http://www.doe.in.gov/octe/docs/cip\\_0910crosswalk.pdf](http://www.doe.in.gov/octe/docs/cip_0910crosswalk.pdf)

**6. What will happen to students engaged in CTE courses or programs that aren't connected to a Career Pathway? Many of these programs, while not high wage or high demand, keep students engaged in school and help them graduate.**

Increasing student engagement and graduation rates is a top priority of the Indiana Department of Education. Indiana CTE districts already offer engaging career programs in Career Pathways areas that are rigorous and connected to areas that lead to high wage and moderate to high demand occupations. Our goal is to ensure that all Career Pathway programs fit this definition.

**7. What is a program of study? How does it fit into a pathway or pathways?**

“Career Pathways” and “Programs of Study” are used interchangeably in Indiana with a preference for the term Career Pathway. The federal Perkins Act requires each state to develop “programs of study” in Career & Technical Education.

**8. Is there a state list of recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes for each course in the pathway?**

Yes. Recommended CIP codes are identified for each state-approved CTE course title in the Indiana Course Titles and Descriptions document at [www.doe.in.gov/publications/courses.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/publications/courses.html)

**9. Will Professional Development be provided to CTE teachers?**

Yes. Summer professional development workshops are planned for CTE teachers as each new tier of Career Pathways is rolled out.

**10. Will the new state course titles be mandated as local titles?**

All CTE districts should be using state-approved course titles either from the list of Indiana Course Titles and Descriptions ([www.doe.in.gov/publications/courses.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/publications/courses.html)) or on the CTE non-standard course title lists approved by the IDOE.